

SECURITY INFORMATION

The Office of Operations was established on 17 October 1946 to control those units of C.I.G. engaged in collecting foreign intelligence information directly from overt non-governmental sources. It originally consisted of the "B" Deputy Staff, transferred from OSO, renamed Contact Branch, and charged with the exploitation of domestic sources; and the Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service, transferred from OCD, redesignated the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch, and responsible for the monitoring of foreign radio broadcasts. Two months later the transfer of the joint War-Navy "Washington Documents Center" to C.I.G. resulted in the addition to the Office of Operations of the Documents Branch for the exploitation of foreign language documents. The history of each of these units is given in the following chapters.

By January 1947, the Office was functioning with a small headquarters staff and three major collecting components in virtually the same form and with the same mission under which it operates today. The history of the Office during the intervening five years is not marked by any reorganizations or radical changes in function. It shows a gradual development through the addition of new responsibilities, always related either to the overt collection mission or to the operational support services provided by the Office to other parts of the Agency. ^B This unique continuity of operations may be due in part to the early approval by the NSC of two functions of the Office as "services of common concern" to be performed centrally by CIA. FBID operations were so

25X1A authorized by [redacted] on 12 December 1947. Two months later, Contact Division received its basic charter with the issuance of NSCID No. ⁷~~6~~, "Domestic Exploitation", on 12 February 1948. In order to respond to the requirements of all the intelligence agencies for information in these two categories and to fulfill certain inter-agency

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agreements in the foreign documents field, the Office expanded more rapidly during 1948 (from ^{25X1A} [] employees on duty) than at any other period.

Although organizational changes affecting the Office were proposed by the Dulles Report in January 1949, one of them, the transfer of [] a new and primarily covert "Operations Division" was disapproved by the National Security Council six months later. For this and other reasons, the provisions of NSC 50 relating to the rest of the Office were never implemented.

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Recommendations in the Dulles Report that greater emphasis be placed upon the analysis of foreign propaganda broadcasts and upon aliens and foreign nationality groups as sources of information were, however, energetically pursued by the Office. The "Special Reports" unit of [] was expanded in the summer of 1949.

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In July 1950 another field of overt collection was opened by the creation of the "Sovmat" Staff, to obtain information through the acquisition and technical analysis of Soviet material objects. This project had been discussed by the Office as early as 1947, but its collection-potential for scientific and technological information was not recognized until after the establishment of OSI.

When the Deputy Director of Plans was appointed in the autumn of 1950, the Office of Operations was grouped with OSO and OPC under his direction. This subordination, which was based partly on Contact Division's responsibility [] continued for slightly

more than a year. After the position of the DD/I was created, the Office of Operations was transferred from the jurisdiction of the DD/P on

1 March 1952

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should remain under the DD/P and be taken over by the AD/SC on 30 June 1952.

13 May 1955

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Talked to [] 00, ext 795, re the
Chapter I, to have been forwarded by []
in 1952.

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[] said that the Chapter I, which
had been then prepared, had been adjudged too long
by [] and that they had consequently
sent over the attached, which from telephonic
description I take to be the Chapter I about
which they were speaking.

She says they have a draft of their original
Chapter I in their files and that we could have
it if the AD/00 said it was ok.

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